[House Bill No. 319.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Jan. 3, 1865.—Read first and second times; continuing special order after last special orders; to be printed.

[By Mr. Miles, Military Committee.]

A BILL

More effectually to prevent and punish Absenteeism and Desertion in the Army.

Section 1. The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That every General commanding a department or separate army in the field, is hereby required to drop from the rolls any officer absent, without authority, for a longer period than thirty days.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That any regimental officer, who, in the opinion of the General commanding the department or separate army to which he belongs, shall willfully or carelessly neglect the comfort and care of his men, or exhibit an undue laxity of discipline, shall be punished by suspending him from his rank and from all pay and allowances for such time, not to exceed three months, as the General commanding the department or army may prescribe.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted, That any commissioned officer of the army, who shall knowingly recruit or receive into his

command any private belonging to another command, or shall, after being informed of the fact, neglect to return such private to his command, or to deliver him up to the proper authorities charged with the arrest of deserters, within the state where such officer may be, shall be dropped from the rolls by the President, upon satisfactory proof that the offence specified in this section has been committed by him.

SEC. 4. Be it further enacted, That any officer, non-commissioned officer or private, who shall desert from the army, shall, in addition to the penalties now provided by law, have his name recorded in the Adjutant General's office, upon a separate and distinct roll to be kept for the purpose, copies of which shall be sent, every three months, to the Governors of the respective States and all Generals in command of separate departments or armies in the field.